HERBERT M. OECHSNER
Numismatist
363 BLOOMFIELD AVENUE
MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY

MEMBER
AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION
AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

MEMBER
NEW JERSEY NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
NEW YORK NUMISMATIC CLUB

November 16, 1959

Mr. Eric P. Newman
c/o The American Numismatic Society
Broadway, between 155-156 Streets
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Newman:

It was a great disappointment to me that I was unable to get to New York to hear your address on Machin's Mills Coinage and Other New York Coppers, and allied subjects, as I have quite a sizable Colonial collection.

If your address is going to be in printed form I would very much appreciate having a copy of it.

Sincerely yours,

HMO:ep

Herbert M. Oechsner

November 23, 1959

Mr. Herbert M. Oechsner
363 Bloomfield Avenue
Montclair, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Oechsner:

Thank you for your note of November 16, 1959 with respect to being unable to hear my talk. I would have enjoyed meeting you because of your interest in that field. Unfortunately, my talk is not going to be printed, but will be the subject of an extensive monograph which will be submitted to A.N.S. for publication.

If you have any Colonial coins which you feel are unusual, or different, and which I should know about, I would appreciate it if you will advise me.

I enjoy research in the early-American field very much and plan to continue writing up many other projects. Help from serious collectors is therefore not only welcome but essential.

If you have a list of the Colonial pieces in your collection that would be most interesting to me.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

HERBERT M. OECHSNER, Inc.
Realtor

363 BLOOMFIELD AVENUE, MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY - 744-9400

March 12, 1963

Mr. Eric Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis 5, Missouri

Dear Mr. Newman:

A collector from the northern part of New Jersey asked me to examine the enclosed coin. He advises me it was in a collection he bought which had been in the hands of one family for two generations.

It would appear to be a Half Cent of New Hampshire which has been in circulation, but I cannot find anything in Crosby or other records that meets the description of this coin. I have a New Hampshire Half Cent which I believe is the one illustrated in the Red Book but it is on a much thicker planchet.

The tree looks like a Massachusetts pine tree type and the insciption could be "American Liberty". The WM and the harp on the reverse certainly put it in the New Hampshire series.

What do you make of it, could it be a new variety? Have you ever seen one like this before?

Sincerely,

Herb Oechsner

HMO:ep
encl.

Herbert M. Oechsner

MEMBER OF LOCAL, STATE, AND NATIONAL REAL ESTATE BOARD ASSOCIATIONS

March 18, 1963

Mr. Herbert M. Oechsner
363 Bloomfield Avenue
Montclair, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Oechsner:

I received your William Moulton New Hampshire copper and I have never seen anything like it before. I certainly want to study it carefully.

Would you be nice enough to send me your other New Hampshire piece so that I may study it also and compare it to the one I have.

I will, of course, photograph the piece you submitted and send you a copy, when I return it.

The fact that this piece was in one family for two generations doesn't mean very much particularly when the family is not identified and also because there was as much devilment going on in the past as there is now.

Thank you for the opportunity to study this item.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/atb

April 8, 1963

Mr. Herbert M. Oechsner
363 Bloomfield Avenue
Montclair, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Oechsner:

I ammost appreciative of your kindness in submitting the New Hampshire pieces for study. You asked for an opinion on the unique piece. I am returning both herewith, along with pictures for your file. The cast piece is lovely and almost identical in characteristics and color to the piece in the writer's collection. Yours weighs 120½ grains with specific gravity 8.3. Breen's calculation of the number made is not quite right as the legal weight was 130 grains each with 53.85 weighing one pound or 5385 pieces authorized. They were not British ½d weight as Walter indicates.

Now as to the W.M. piece. I am sorry to say our opinion is going to cast doubt on the piece. It weighs 73¾ grains, specific gravity 8.9, approximate diameter of a halfpence, struck not cast.

1. The weight of this piece is so much below the statutory weight it would be unacceptable for circulation as a halfpence.

2. The workmanship is far below the engraving ability of WilliamMoulton, as known in silverware, etc.

3. The initials W.M. are so large they would be unacceptable to the New Hampshire authorities, since they are as large as the N.H.

4. The drawing in the New Hampshire records does not have any indication of New Hampshire being on the coin and thus limiting their use.

Points #2 and #3 are equally applicable to the other three unique N.H. pieces, all of which are subject to similar suspicion. Moulton would not strike one piece, engrave another, and cast another if he were submitting patterns. He had no striking equipment if the regular cast New Hampshire pieces were the regular issue. No one else submitted coin patterns. Incidentally, the peculiar roots are a copy of the 1652 Pine Tree style. The normal 1776 piece has no roots.

April 8, 1963

Mr. Herbert M. Oechsner

If all of these unique N.H. pieces are forgeries they were made in the 1860-70 period* when faking was popular. The story about one being found in a drain by a workman is a routine tale for forgeries.

I cannot prove anything either way. I merely point out logical theories which you will have to evaluate. Would you like to write up this piece and publish it? What do you think of the genuineness of it

Presumably you have much nice Colonial material. Do you collect Colonial paper money as well as Colonial coins?

I look forward to your comments and any other data on this coin which you may have. Is there any pedigree

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

ENN
atb

REGISTERED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

* The completely artificial 1778 NON DEPENDS status piece was written up in 1857 as a genuine coin and had just been made.

HERBERT M. OECHSNER, Inc.
Realtor

363 BLOOMFIELD AVENUE, MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY · 744-9400

February 20, 1967

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Mr. Newman:

For a number of years I have been collecting Washington material in conjunction with my Colonial Collection. I have assembled a sizable collection including some of the early medals.

In your book on "Medallic Portraits of Washington" you show a picture of the 1853 Bushnell Medal in silver by C. C. Wright which you indicate is unique. I bought one about ten years ago from Aaron Feldman, and my jeweler told me it is silver.

Recently I was sent a medal on approval by Ted Craige which has the same C. C. Wright portrait on the obverse and the same reverse except that the legend on both obverse and reverse are different. It apparently commemorates the centennial of the 1789 Inauguration. The medal is light weight white metal, the same size but thinner. Would you have any knowledge of the background of this piece?

Sincerely yours,

Herb Oechsner

HMO:ep

Herbert M. Oechsner

MEMBER OF LOCAL, STATE, AND NATIONAL REAL ESTATE BOARD ASSOCIATIONS

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

February 22, 1967

Mr. Herbert M. Oechsner
363 Bloomfield Avenue
Montclair, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Oechsner:

This is Washington's birthday and there is no better time than to answer your letter of February 20 with respect to Washington material.

Since you refer to "Medallic Portraits of Washington", I imagine you intend your letter for George Fuld rather than for me. Would you let me know what was intended as I have no information, offhand, on Centennial medals.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/atb

A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION FOR EDUCATION
THROUGH RESEARCH AND EXHIBITION
OF COINS, CURRENCY AND HISTORIC OBJECTS

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

July 31, 1969

Mr. Herbert M. Oechsner
303 Blumfield Avenue
Montclair, New Jersey

Dear Herb:

I just returned from my vacation and was pleased to find the photocopy which you were kind enough to send me of your change notes. It is a lovely collection and I see that it includes a substantial number formerly owned by George Wait and which I believe he obtained from Fred Boyd.

I willwwant to have photographs taken of a number of these for publication but perhaps they can be easily done by Xerography.

No doubt I will see you at the Philadelphia convention and we can talk out the most practical way of handling the matter.

I certainly am grateful for your cooperation and appreciated the opportunity of chatting with you at the recent New York Numismatic Club meeting.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/atb

A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION FOR EDUCATION
THROUGH RESEARCH AND EXHIBITION
OF COINS, CURRENCY AND HISTORIC OBJECTS

June 6, 1970 Borrowed from Herbert Oechsner
from photographing and study

1d Bk of NA (K) 1789
3d Bk of NA (A) 1789
1d Presb Church of Ballston (n.d)
2d " " " "
4d " " " "
1d Reformed Dutch Caughey (1793)
1d Presb Congreg of Troy (1792)
1d Reformed Dutch Schenectady (1793)
1d Lansingburgh Museum 1792
2d " " "
3d " " "
1d City of N.Y. 1790
1d " " " ctf(?) 1789
2d " " " 1790
3d " " " 1790
1d City of Albany 1792
2d " " "
1d " " 1793
2d " " 1793
2d City of Hudson (1792)
1d Kingston 1790
2d " 1790
1d Peter Tappen (Poughkeepsie) 1791
1d Hudson 1790
2d Hudson 1792
1d Tryon n.d.
7d " n.d.
1d Jones & Dole (Lansingburgh) 1790
1d Hale (Catskill) 1792
1d NY Mfg Soc 1790
4d " " " 1790

3d B + M (Whitestown) 1792
1d Soc Est. Useful Mfg (1794)
3d NY Mfg Soc 1790
2d Constitu Soc 1791
4d Crosswell & Co (Catskill) n.d
4d Genesee Comp (1790)

Total 37 pieces

Eric Newman

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

June 25, 1970

Mr. Herbert M. Oechsner
363 Blumfield Avenue
Montclair, New Jersey

Dear Herb:

The notes borrowed from you on June 6, 1970 are left at the American Numismatic Society for your pick up.

If you ever care to dispose of any of these notes, please remember me.

Thank you, again and again, for your kind cooperation.

Sincerely,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/atb

A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION FOR EDUCATION
THROUGH RESEARCH AND EXHIBITION
OF COINS, CURRENCY AND HISTORIC OBJECTS

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

June 29, 1970

Mr. Herbert M. Oechsner
363 Blamfield Avenue
Montclair, New Jersey 07042

Dear Herb:

Your cooperation with respect to the change notes is most appreciated. I hope that it was not too much trouble for you to meet at the ANS.

Your pieces are superb and I have studied them carefully. I left them at ANS on June 25 for you to pick up or for Henry Grunthal to bring you.

You will recall I noticed something different about the 3d marbled paper Bank of N.A. It has the bottom border trimmed off and I wanted you to know this.

The N.Y.C. 1d which is taken from a newspaper is a drawing with a fictitious date, in my opinion. The use of change notes was not justified until the July, 1789 copper coin panic and thus the January, 1789 date seems wrong.

I am looking for someone in New York or Jersey to look up a trifle of history on some of the organizations which issued change notes and thought you might have a suggestion.

Again, many thanks for showing me the inventory of your collection. You can be proud of being a devoted collector who sincerely derives enjoyment from his holdings.

My kindest regards,

Sincerely,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN
atb

A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION FOR EDUCATION
THROUGH RESEARCH AND EXHIBITION
OF COINS, CURRENCY AND HISTORIC OBJECTS

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

December 29, 1970

Mr. Herbert M. Oechsner
363 Blumfield Avenue
Montclair, New Jersey

Dear Herb:

Thank you, very much, for your cooperation in writing me on December 18, 1970 and in arranging for the Freeman Sale Catalogue to be delivered to me. It has arrived, including a price list. I am so sorry you were not able to buy more items, as you would have enjoyed them. Those that you did buy seem to be very nice and if there are any duplicates among them I would like to have the opportunity of acquiring them. You did acquire Lot No. 2161, which had a couple of small change notes, and I would appreciate photocopies of those at your convenience.

I am wondering who got the following lots, if your records show them:

2103
2151
~~[illegible]~~
2170
2225

My very best wishes for an exciting New Year, full of numismatic surprises.

Cordially,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/atb

A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION FOR EDUCATION
THROUGH RESEARCH AND EXHIBITION
OF COINS, CURRENCY AND HISTORIC OBJECTS

Herbert M. Oechsner, Inc.

REALTOR

363 BLOOMFIELD AVE., MONTCLAIR, N. J. 07042
PHONE: 744-9400

October 21, 1971

Mr. Eric P. Newman
c/o Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.
P. O. Box 14020
St. Louis, Mo. 63178

Dear Eric:

Thank you for the copy of your interesting find. I am looking forward to the day when the results of your research will be in book form.

Cordially,

HERBERT M. OECHSNER
Numismatist
363 BLOOMFIELD AVENUE
MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY

MEMBER
AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION
AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

MEMBER
NEW JERSEY NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
NEW YORK NUMISMATIC CLUB

April 7, 1972

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Eric:

A few years ago you gave a lecture at the American Numismatic Society which I attended, on the subject of Bungtown Tokens.

I am doing some research work on 18th Century Imitations of British Copper Coins, of which I have quite a large collection.

The purpose of this letter is to find out if you have a copy of the lecture you gave, which included some of the facts I am trying to establish.

With best personal wishes.

Cordially,

HMO:ep

Herbert M. Oechsner

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

April 11, 1972

Mr. Herbert M. Oechsner
363 Bloomfield Avenue
Montclair, New Jersey

Dear Herb:

It was most pleasant receiving the letter from you respecting the Bungtown halfpence matter and in a short time I will locate a copy of my talk and send it to you. I have a similar request from Jim Spilman and am planning to revise the talk and give it at the ANA Educational Forum in New Orleans.

The last time we met, I believe you mentioned the fact that you had a nice collection of British coppers. I am particularly interested in studying any which you have dating from 1747 through 1788 if they have regular legends and are not Tower Mint genuine strikes. I am interested in all dates whether they existed in genuine form or not. In other words, I would like to see the counterfeit British halfpence which you do have in your collection but I do not need the evasions which have the non-standard legends.

I am intrigued by whatever facts you are trying to establish and would like to call you up and talk it over.

As soon as I locate my talk, it will be forthcoming.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/atb

A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION FOR EDUCATION
THROUGH RESEARCH AND EXHIBITION
OF COINS, CURRENCY AND HISTORIC OBJECTS

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

April 20, 1972

Mr. Herbert M. Oechsner
363 Bloomfield Avenue
Montclair, New Jersey

Dear Herb:

Found it. Enclosed is a copy of the article. Please read it and let me have any comments, suggestions, challenges, clarifications,etc.

Please don't lend it to anyone else and return the photostat when it has served its purpose.

I hope it gives you a little food for thought.

My kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN
atb

A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION FOR EDUCATION
THROUGH RESEARCH AND EXHIBITION
OF COINS, CURRENCY AND HISTORIC OBJECTS

HERBERT M. OECHSNER
Numismatist
363 BLOOMFIELD AVENUE
MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY

MEMBER
AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION
AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

MEMBER
NEW JERSEY NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
NEW YORK NUMISMATIC CLUB

April 20, 1972

Mr. Eris P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Eric:

Thank you for your letter of April 11th which was in reply to mine on the subject of British Evasion Coppers.

I consider these the clowns of the coin world but I am sure that the authorities and the public did not consider them with any amusement at the time when they were put out in massive quantities.

I have an article written in 1946 by Phares O. Sigler under the subject of The Coins of Colonial America, entitled "Bungtown Coppers".

In the April and May issues of The Numismatist in 1956 there was an article by Lt. Comdr. M. L. Peterson, "Eighteenth Century Imitations of British Regal Copper Coins". There were about 160 pieces illustrated. I have this collection that ~~were~~ was illustrated plus others acquired subsequently. If you have these issues you will be able to pick out what might be of interest to you.

My interest is a general study of the series which seems to include many more varities than were known to Atkins. I thought I might prepare a talk on this subject for our New Jersey Club at some future date.

I expect to be in London in the latter part of May. If there is anything you want me to check at the British Museum please let me know. The last time I was there they were most generous in letting me look at anything in which I seemed interested. Their Ancients are really something to see.

If you are successful in finding a copy of your talk I will be very pleased to have it.

With kindest regards.

Cordially,

HMO:ep

Herbert M. Oechsner

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

April 24, 1972

Mr. Herbert M. Oochsner
363 Bloomfield Avenue
Montclair, New Jersey

Dear Herb:

In the Ashmolean Museum, in Oxford, there is a manuscript of Atkins additions to his list of evasions. You might want to have a copy made of it.

The articles by Sigler and Peterson, I am familiar with, and you will find other references in the talk which I recently sent you.

Have a great time in England.

Cordially,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/atb

A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION FOR EDUCATION
THROUGH RESEARCH AND EXHIBITION
OF COINS, CURRENCY AND HISTORIC OBJECTS

HERBERT M. OECHSNER, Inc.
Realtor

363 BLOOMFIELD AVENUE, MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY 07042 - 744-9400

May 9, 1972

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Eric:

Here it is back again, and thank you very much for letting me borrow it.

Suggestions? Challenges? Clarifications? NONE! Comments! Yes.

I think you did a masterful and exhaustive job of research and made a most interesting presentation. You ought to put it in pamphlet form as a reference item on the subject.

It is a good thing for numismatists that there are people like you who are interested enough to devote time and effort in research work.

With all good wishes.

Cordially,

Herb

Herbert M. Oechsner

HMO:ep
encl.

MEMBER OF LOCAL, STATE, AND NATIONAL REAL ESTATE BOARD ASSOCIATIONS

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

May 22, 1972

Mr. Herbert Oechsner
363 Bloomfield Ave.,
Montclair, New Jersey

Dear Herb:

Thank you for your very nice comments concerning the paper on halfpence which I sent to you. The reason I asked for it back is that others have asked for it from time to time and I have to be in a position to say that I have the same rule for everyone.

I am going to add a lot more to the paper to cover the Machins Mills data.

In doing my research, I sometimes forget that I am still a collector so if you hear of any items which you think would be of interest to me, please do not hesitate to tell me.

Cordially yours,

EPN/atb

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION FOR EDUCATION
THROUGH RESEARCH AND EXHIBITION
OF COINS, CURRENCY AND HISTORIC OBJECTS

HERBERT M. OECHSNER
Numismatist
363 BLOOMFIELD AVENUE
MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY

MEMBER
AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION
AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

MEMBER
NEW JERSEY NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
NEW YORK NUMISMATIC CLUB

August 3, 1972

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Eric:

When I was in England I did not get to Oxford and the Ashmolean Museum. However, I did write to them about the Atkins additions to his list of Evasions and received a reply this morning.

They advise me that the list consists of some seventy pages which would have to be photocopied and there would be a sizeable charge involved. Do you have a copy of this list?

I note with considerable interest that in the current Coin World it is reported that you will be speaking on the subject of Bungtown Coppers of Early America at the New Orleans Convention. Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend this Convention. Will this be the same talk you gave at the ANS?

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Herbert M. Oechsner

HMO:ep

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

August 7, 1972

Mr. Herbert M. Oechsner
363 Bloomfield Avenue
Montclair, New Jersey 07042

Dear Herb:

It was nice to hear from you about the evasion coppers. We did not obtain a copy of the additional items at the Ashmolean Museum. Did they give you a price on microfilm or photocopy? Let's find out the cost, first, before determining whether you, or we, or both should pay for it.

Sincerely yours,

EPN/atb

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

P. S. I have added some additional material to the talk, particularly finds of halfpence in Pennsylvania.

EPN

A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION FOR EDUCATION
THROUGH RESEARCH AND EXHIBITION
OF COINS, CURRENCY AND HISTORIC OBJECTS

HERBERT M. OECHSNER
Numismatist
369 BLOOMFIELD AVENUE
MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY

MEMBER
AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION
AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

MEMBER
NEW JERSEY NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
NEW YORK NUMISMATIC CLUB

August 10, 1972

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Eric:

The Ashmolean Museum said that the list of Evasions consisted of about seventy pages and would cost something in the order of three pounds plus postage to have them photocopied.

Sincerely,

HMO:ep

Herbert M. Oechsner

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

August 15, 1972

Mr. Herbert M. Oechsner
363 Bloomfield Avenue
Montclair, New Jersey 07042

Dear Herb:

If you will do the work on listing the additions to the Atkins list, we will gladly pay for the reproduction cost. Perhaps two copies ought to be ordered - one for us and one for you.

Whatever you do, is fine with us.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC
EDUCATION SOCIETY

EPN/atb

A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION FOR EDUCATION
THROUGH RESEARCH AND EXHIBITION
OF COINS, CURRENCY AND HISTORIC OBJECTS

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

February 3, 1988

Mr. Leslie A. Elam
American Numismatic Society
Broadway at 156th Street
New York, NY 10032

Dear Leslie:

I found my file of correspondence with Herbert M. Oechsner. I enclose interesting letters which I selected.

One letter is an opinion I gave on New Hampshire pieces which he forwarded to me 25 years ago for an opinion. Another indicates he has a very nice collection of evasions of British halfpence and I do not know if he ever followed through with obtaining the copies of the supplementary material in the file of the Ashmolean Museum. You will also note he had an excellent collection of scrip paper money of the 1790s and I wonder whether this was given to the Society or was going to be sold.

If there is any further way I can be of help in connection with his request to you, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

jah

Encls.

LIBERTY

CABLE ADDRESS
"NUMISMA" NEW YORK

TELEPHONE
(212) 234 - 3130

THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
(FOUNDED 1858 · INCORPORATED 1865)
BROADWAY AT 155TH STREET
NEW YORK · N.Y. 10032

March 16, 1988

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.
Post Office Box 14020
St. Louis, Missouri 63178

Dear Eric,

I trust that by now Henry has called you and confirmed what I told you about the Newby coin.

Enclosed is the press release regarding the Oechsner gift including the press photo and an actual size photo as well. The piece weighs 7.79 gram; specific gravity to follow. We are hoping that you can find enough of interest in this specimen to warrant an article for, say, The Colonial Newsletter. It would be good to publicize the piece thus.

Judi and I look forward to seeing you on the 26th.

Sincerely yours,

Leslie A. Elam
Director

LAE:lw
Encl.

CABLE ADDRESS
"NUMISMA" NEW YORK

TELEPHONE
(212) 234 - 3130

THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
(FOUNDED 1858 · INCORPORATED 1865)
BROADWAY AT 155TH STREET
NEW YORK · N.Y. 10032

CONTACT: SANDE ELINSON
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ANS RECEIVES RARE 1776 NEW HAMPSHIRE COPPER

THROUGH OECHSNER BEQUEST

On February 11, 1988, the American Numismatic Society received an extremely rare 1776 New Hampshire Copper in a bequest from the late Herbert M. Oechsner. This early example of State Coinage is valued at $25,000 by the Oechsner Estate. An avid collector of colonial American and ancients for the past 40 years, Herbert Oechsner died on November 28, 1987, at the age of eighty-three. He had been a member of the Society since 1958, an active member of the New York Numismatic Club, belonged to seven regional New York Coin Clubs and was an organizer for the annual Metropolitan New York Coin Convention for over two decades. Mr. Oechsner resided in Montclair, New Jersey, and was president of Herbert M. Oechsner, Inc. Realtor. He is survived by his wife, Helen Oechsner.

Mr. Oechsner's bequest of this one coin to the Society was made according to longtime friend and professional numismatist Harvey G. Stack "because of Mr. Oechsner's respect for the Society's role in furthering numismatic research as a discipline of the humanities. Herbert loved his

MORE

coins for the history they told and represented and wanted this particular piece of Americana to be where others could study and handle it." The remainder of his Greek, early Roman bronze, Roman republican and imperial, Foreign crowns, U.S. and American colonial coins will be sold by Stack's of New York City in September of 1988. "All proceeds from the sale will go to Mr. Oechsner's personal list of philanthropies and charities," stated Harvey Stack.

The history of this rare copper coinage dates back to the time of the Declaration of Independence when New Hampshire found itself the first state of the newly formed Union to consider the subject of coinage. The Garrett sale catalogue of 1980 issued by Bowers and Ruddy Galleries explains the history of this coinage in a section entitled "Copper Coinage of New Hampshire." The section states that "the New Hampshire House of Representatives first formed a committee on March 13, 1776, to consider the production of copper coinage. The committee reported that it would be beneficial to produce copper issues as the Continental currency and other paper money issues in circulation were too large for use in small transactions.

"William Moulton was recommended for the franchise to produce up to 100 pounds' weight of coppers to be submitted to the General Assembly prior to circulating the pieces. The recommended weight of each copper was to be equal to the current English halfpenny and its value would be such that 108 coppers would equal one Spanish milled dollar.

A design was submitted showing on the obverse a tree and the words AMERICAN LIBERTY, emblematic of the revolutionary spirit prevailing at the time. The reverse was to depict a harp and the date 1776."

On June 28, 1776, the New Hampshire House of Representatives' vote was recorded, accepting the coppers as legal exchange for paper bills of this colony and further stating that the "coppers shall have the following device: a pine tree with the words American Liberty on one side and a harp and the figure 1776 on the other side." The rarity of the coin is believed to derive from the fact "that William Moulton prepared patterns following the proposed recommendations, but that the pieces were made in limited quantity and never circulated to any extent."

Mr. Oechsner first brought his 1776 New Hampshire Copper to the attention of American Numismatic Society Councillor, Eric P. Newman of St. Louis, in a letter of March 12, 1963. At that time Oechsner had been asked to examine a coin that was similar to his own New Hampshire Copper by a fellow New Jersey collector. He wrote Newman at the Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society, saying the fellow New Jersey collector "advises me it was in a collection he bought which had been in the hands of one family for two generations."

Mr. Newman responded by asking for permission to examine both coins, the one offered to Mr. Oechsner and Mr. Oechsner's own 1776 New Hampshire Copper. The coin offered to Mr. Oechsner by the New Jersey collector was given an opinion that "is going to cast doubt on the piece" in Newman's April 8, 1963, letter. However, the cast piece owned by Mr. Oechsner was described by Newman as "lovely and almost identical in characteristics and color to the piece in the writer's collection." Over the next twenty years the two corresponded, exchanging information about various aspects of the Oechsner collections.

William L. Bischoff, Curator of Modern Coins at the American Numismatic Society, expressed delight upon receipt of the bequest, stating that "it came as a very welcome surprise to us and will add significantly to our already strong holdings in the pre-federal coinage of our own nation."

The American Numismatic Society's collections, library and exhibition halls are located at 155th Street and Broadway, New York City. The exhibition halls and library are open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Sundays from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The nearly one million item collection from the beginning of world coinage to present period are accessible for research purposes to the public. Appointments for viewing a portion of the collection can be made by calling the appropriate curator at the Society's headquarters (212) 234-3130.